

***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

Applicant: Hiroki SATOH  
Title: EQUALIZING CIRCUIT AND METHOD AND IMAGE  
PROCESSING CIRCUIT AND METHOD  
Appl. No.: Not yet assigned  
Filing Date: January 25, 2002  
Examiner: Not yet assigned  
Art Unit: Not yet assigned



**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.97**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on a modified Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to applicant in order to comply with applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. A copy of each of the listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98.

The submission herewith of any document is not intended as an admission either that such document constitutes competent prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). Applicant does not waive the right to take appropriate action to antedate any document that does not constitute a statutory bar and that is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application, or to otherwise remove such a document as a competent reference.

### **TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) within three months of the filing date of the application.

### **RELEVANCE OF THE DOCUMENTS**

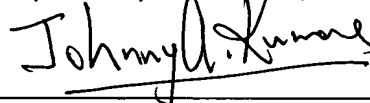
Document A2 discloses an image processing apparatus which divides a manuscript into the area a character, and the area of a photograph, and is outputted as a signal of area. It changes the processing method. (Fig. 2 and lines 20-28 of the right column of page 2.)

An English translation of document A2 is not readily available; however, the absence of such translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted document (37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609). An English language abstract is provided for document A2. Applicant also notes that document A1 is a U.S. patent counterpart to document A2.

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 609.

January 25, 2002

Respectfully submitted,



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SHEET 1 OF 1

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)  
(Use several sheets if necessary)Date Submitted to PTO: **January 25, 2002**ATTY DOCKET NO.: **016907/1361**SERIAL NO.: **Not yet assigned**APPLICANT: **Hiroki SATOH**FILING DATE **January 25, 2002**GROUP: **Not yet assigned**

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	<b>A1</b>	<b>5,892,852</b>	<b>4-6-1999</b>	<b>Namizuka et al.</b>			

Case U.S. PTO  
10/055402  
01/25/02

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
	<b>A2</b>	<b>8-18777</b>	<b>1-19-1996</b>	<b>Japan</b>			<b>Abstract</b>

## OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.